The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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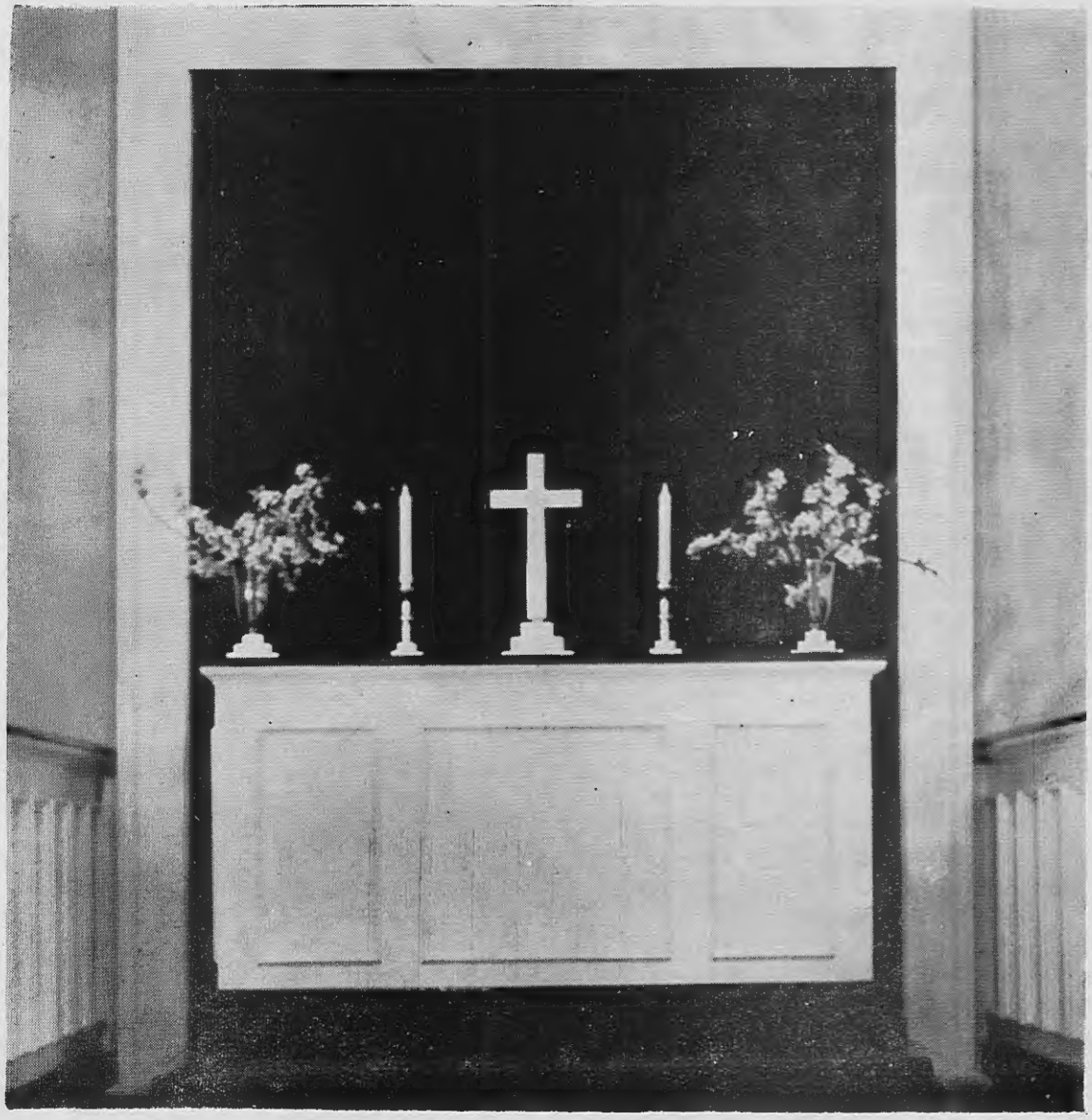

Chipley Oak Grove Church Worship Center

The Dangers of Bibliolatry

By Roy C. Helfenstein, Richmond, Va.

Reprinted from THE CHRISTIAN SUN

The word "Bibliolatry" is self-explanatory. However, Webster's International Dictionary tells us that "Bibliolatry is an excessive regard for the Bible." Other etymologists have put it this way: "Bibliolatry is claiming for the Bible what it does not claim for itself, making the Bible an end in itself in using it as a defense mechanism to support pet beliefs and doctrines; making it in fact an object of worship, dogmatically cherishing theories about its origin, its nature and its purpose which do not square with reason, with facts or with common sense; mistaking defense of mistaken theories of its basis of inspiration as being the major responsibility of believers in the God of the New Testament."

Bibliolatry, in the final analysis, is "Making an idol of the Bible," attaching supernatural significance to the Book and denying all naturalness in its origin and formation — giving the Bible an appraisal which history and irrefutable facts will not substantiate. Ministers who have had no seminary training sometimes embrace the claims of bibliolatry. Occasionally you will hear such a minister boast of "preaching nothing but the Bible," when in fact every minister was ordained to preach "The Christ of the Bible."

Bibliolatry looks upon the Bible as being a book of magic and wonderment —a fetish having a sort of inherent charm and power — and that the Book within and of itself has a mystic power of protection and assistance for its possessor. Bibliolatry furthermore contends that the authority of the Bible rests upon its verbal inspiration instead of upon the fact that its authority is based upon the power of its truths to inspire men of every age with the challenge of "a good life" — a life lived in a filial relationship toward God and in a brotherly relationship toward mankind.

The inspiration of the Bible rests upon a far more substantial and a far more significant basis, than any theory of its inspiration. The fact that its truths inspire its readers is the basis of the Bible's inspiration.

But Bibliolatry insists that every part of the Bible is equally inspired and of equal importance — that the Old Testament is as much inspired and as valuable to seekers after religious truth as is the New Testament, and that the whole Book is rejected if any part of it is not accepted as a "thus saith the Lord." Bibliolatry thus rests its untenable claim for "the infallibleness of the Scripture" — a claim which would require for its substantiation that the men who wrote its various parts were infallible; that the men who translated it were infallible; that the men who printed it were infallible — all of which, if true, would presuppose that only infallible readers are qualified to read it aright.

Bibliolatry reflects its anti-Christian aspect in the contentions and suspicious attitudes of its victims. They put a big red question-mark after all other professors of faith. But "by their fruits you shall know them." Bibliolatry causes bibliolaters to suspect and to discount and to deny the religious sincerity of the most devout and the most circumspect Christian men and women who believe that the Bible grew out of the experiences of the people over centuries of time. Bibliolatry totally ignores the human equation involved in the writing of the Bible as we have it today. Bibliolatry rests its case upon the strange belief that in some miraculous manner the Bible was given to mankind undefiled by human participation in its making.

Christianity unites people in the bonds of love and faith. Bibliolatry is divisive. Bibliolatry makes its victims contentious, cantankerous, unsocial and unchristian in their attitude toward others. From the beginning of the Christian Era, the most scholarly and the most devout leaders in the Church have warned devotees of the Christian Faith against the dangers of bibliolatry, because they believed that, though posing as friends of the Bible, bibliolaters in actuality have been and are the most dangerous enemies of the Bible — indeed greater enemies of the Bible than are skeptics, agnostics, infidels, and atheists.

Christian Faith is based not upon a theory but upon "A Life." Christian Faith recognizes and deplores bibliolatry in its every form and phase, because Christian Faith knows the dangers of bibliolatry. Christian Faith says to all men, "If your heart is as my heart, then give me your hand." Bibliolatry says, "If your views about the Bible are as my views, then let us fraternize; but if not, then you are out." Christian Faith does not restrict its fellowship to "those who love and serve alike."

Informed Christians love the Bible above all other books, not because they think the Bible is supernatural or infallible, but because within the Bible are religious truths which point the way to fellowship with God and to "supernatural living," to "Christian living;" and because the Bible, if rightly understood and appreciated, introduces men and women and boys and girls to their loving Heavenly Father, and to Jesus Christ, "who taketh away the sins of the world" and the sins charged to our personal accounts. Never will informed Christians worship the Bible. They will worship only God, who knows every person better than one can know oneself, who cares about every person, and who can help every person who calls upon Him in faith, believing. Informed Christians are eternally committed to the worship of the God of the Bible as revealed in the Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ. They worship only God, our Heavenly Father — the God whom Jesus loves, worshipped and served.

We should read the Bible understandingly and discriminatingly, recognizing those parts that are void of spiritual and inspirational value and appreciating its naturalness and the relative spiritual values of its various parts, thus also recognizing that much of the Old Testament has only historical and social significance, being absolutely void of spiritual value. For instance, the books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Judges, and others, with their shockingly inhuman pronouncement of cursings, their archaic orderings of animal sacrifice, their demonic animosities and unethical portrayals of God and of human conduct, are absolutely revolting to the modern mind. Such data could well be omitted from the Bible without any spiritual loss whatsoever to "The Biblical Treasury"

(Continued on Page 10)

Dr. Hoskins Nominated General Council Minister

The Rev. Dr. Fred Hoskins, pastor of First Congregational Church of Oak Park, Ill., has been nominated as Minister of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches.

The nomination was made by the Council's Executive Committee. Formal election will take place at the biennial meeting of the General Council in Omaha, Neb., in June of this year. Dr. Hoskins will be installed in the position following the General Council meeting.

Dr. Hoskins will succeed Rev. Dr. Douglas Horton, who resigned the position to become Dean of Harvard Divinity School. Dr. Fred Buschmeyer is serving as acting Minister

Educated at Illinois College and Yale Divinity School, Dr. Hoskins has served as pastor of the Central Christian Church, Jacksonville, Ill.; the United Congregational Church, Bridgeport, Conn.; and the Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines, Iowa.

Dr. Hoskins is the co-editor of "A Book of Worship for Free Churches," which is widely used among Congregational Christian and other free churches in America.

Within his denomination, Dr. Hoskins is an associate member of the Council for Social Action and a corporate member of both the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and of the Board of Home Missions. He is a former Moderator of the Connecticut Conference. Dr. Hoskins is active in interdenominational Protestant organizations both nationally and locally.

In his new position Dr. Hoskins will act as Minister to the 5,897 ministers of the Congregational Christian Churches. The General Council is a central body composed of approximately 1,200 delegates elected by the Congregational Christian membership. It meets biennially. The General Council is responsible for the Commission on the Ministry and for the Council for Social Action. It also conducts relationships with other denominations and with Congregational churches outside the United States.

Dr. Hoskins is married to the former Alice Evelyn Gardner. They have three children: Robert and Theodore, both students in Yale Divinity School, and Mary Ellen, who attends Oak Park public schools.

Southeast Convention Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Southeast Convention will be held in historic old Circular Church in Charleston, S. C., beginning at 7:30 p. m. Monday, April 23, and adjourning at 11:30 a. m. Wednesday.

Hotel registrations must be made with the St. John Hotel, according to rates given in the advance information. Also, registration for the Woman's Fellowship and Laymen's Fellowship luncheons on Tuesday should be made at once, as only a few last minute registrations can be taken.

The registration fee is $1.20, and the cost of either luncheon is $1.80, making a total of $3 for registration. This should be sent to the Convention office in Atlanta.

Leadership Training School

The annual Leadership Training Schools held by the Valley churches are looked forward to, and much benefit is derived by the churches participating. This spring's school began April 15 and closed on the 20th, and was held at Lanett. The Rev. Joe A. French was dean.

Classes were held as follows: "How to Read and Study the Bible" by Rev. Paul Pardy of Langdale. Text is **The Bible and You** by E. R. Blair.

"Christian Stewardship" by Rev. Henry Weaver of Chipley, Ga. Text is **Stewardship in the New Testament Church** by H. Ralston.

"Teaching in the Vacation Church School" by the Rev. Miss Annie Campbell, Minister of Christian Education, Southeast Convention.

"Recreational Leadership" by Charles Fetner. Text, **The Recreation Leader** by E. G. Harbin.

"Young Adult Work in the Church" by Rev. John Pickens of LaGrange, Ga.

"Understanding Ourselves." Text, **"About Myself** by Nevin C. Harner.

Laymen's Retreat

According to Herman D. Cook of Lanett, the East Alabama-West Georgia Laymen's Fellowship is planning the annual retreat for June 8-10, beginning late Friday afternoon and closing Sunday noon. All laymen of the Convention are cordially invited to attend.

Religious Spectacular To Be Presented At Omaha

The American Board is making ambitious plans for a great religious spectacular to take place at the General Council Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, next June. 1956 will mark the 150th year of founding of the Board and the beginning of foreign mission movements in our country. Plans will be made at Omaha for an ongoing program of enlistment of life, energy and support during the biennium to follow.

Competent experts will write, direct and produce the pageant drama. Admission will have to be charged, but it is hoped that 10,000 people from the surrounding region (there are 55,000 Congregationalists living in less than a 200-mile radius of Omaha) can fill the Municipal Auditorium.

Church Architecture Conference In Atlanta

The annual National Joint Conference on Church Architecture was held March 7, 8, and 9 in Atlanta at the Biltmore Hotel, and sponsored by the Church Architectural Guild of America and the Bureau of Church Building of the National Council of Churches.

Guild Director Anthony Ferrara, Washington architect, confirmed that this year's conference was the "greatest ever," and added that the response of Atlanta churches assured its success. By noon Friday 400 architects, designers and church authorities had registered.

Supt. Erston M. Butterfield assisted as a member of the local arrangements committee; Atlanta Central Church served two luncheons to the group; and Richard Churchill, member of Central Church and president of the Atlanta chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, was a leader in the seminar on Site Selection and Utilization.

Winner of the 1955 Conover Award to the man of the year in church building went to Dr. C. Harry Atkinson, Executive Director of the Bureau of Church Building, National Council of Churches. Dr. Atkinson also led the seminar on Building for Christian Education. Dr. John R. Scotford, who had just completed an advisory tour in the Convention, led the seminar on Church Plant Expansion and Remodeling.

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A Great Task Done

At the end of 1955 Dr. Sidney Berry concluded his period of service as Minister and Secretary of the International Congregational Council; and on Jan. 17 the Library of the Memorial Hall in London, England, was filled with a large company who assembled at the invitation of the Moderator, Dr. S. Maurice Watts, to pay fervent and affectionate tribute. Among those present were Dr. Berry's daughters, Margaret and Barbara.

After tea, provided by ladies of Union Church, the Moderator took the chair. Dr. Watts reminded the Assembly that I. C. C. held its first sessions in 1891 in London, when Dr. Dale presided. Thereafter the meetings were held every 10 years, alternately in Britain and the United States, and they were in the nature of conferences. The Assembly at Lellesley in 1949 was no longer "Anglo - American," for representatives of several countries were present, and an organization was begun. Dr. Berry was elected as Minister and Secretary, and an office was opened in London. Since then the Secretary had wandered the world, visiting the United States and the Commonwealth, and making contacts in many lands with people who shared the same churchmanship. The latest church to become a member of the I. C. C. was the powerful Mission Covenant Church of Sweden. Dr. Watts then indicated that messages had been received from many individuals, including Lord and Lady Stansgate in Bagdad, Principal Nicholas from New Zealand, and Judge Wills, ex-Chairman of the Union of British Guiana. Letters, with token gifts, have come from Wales, Ireland, Scotland, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, British Guiana, Holland, Finland, Sweden. A communication from the United States had been delayed. All expressed thanksgiving for the gifts and graces of Dr. Berry, and his outstanding contribution to World Congregationalism.

The speeches were mostly brief and all betrayed the same deep affection for Dr. Berry.

The Rev. Howard Stanley rejoiced that he represented the Union in a tribute of affection and gratitude to Dr. Berry, to whom he said he would like to give the title of "Your Beatitude." The Rev. W. T. Owen of King's Cross Tabernacle spoke for the Welsh Independents; Miss Huysinga of Rotterdam for the Dutch Remonstrants; the Rev. Frank de Lisle for New Zealand. Miss Dorothy Biggs, the assistant secretary, paid a moving tribute, as did the Rev. Ralph Calder, who succeeds to the office. Mr. Calder also made a presentation of a tray, constructed of a variety of Australian woods, for Mrs. Berry.

The Moderator then handed to Dr. Berry a cheque, combining contributions from all the constituent Unions.

—S. Maurice Watts, London, England

Dr. Berry spoke at all the association and conference meetings of the Southeast Convention during the fall of 1954, and many of you will remember him, and will be interested in this comment by Miss Dorothy Biggs, who sent the above account: "Although in many ways it was a sad occasion in that it was a farewell, you will not be surprised to know that it turned out to be an extraordinarily happy occasion, for S. M. B. was at his best and his spirit permeated the whole atmosphere. We, of course, have not really said goodbye for he will be with us in the I. C. C. as an Honorary Consultant."

Laymen At Buckhill Falls

If each church could have had a layman present at the Midwinter Meeting at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., in January, the inspiration received would be felt immediately instead of having to be passed along by the state or area presidents.

The reports from presidents of states whose fellowships have strong programs made one realize how much it is possible for laymen working together to do for their church, locally and beyond their own communities.

One state fellowship has set up a loan fund to aid ministerial students. If the student returns to the state after graduation and ordination, the loan is reduced $100 for each year he serves a church within the state. Another state has a program for training laymen to substitute for their own or other ministers in the association. Copies of materials used in that program have been requested for possible use in our area.

A number of states provide in the conference budget an amount for the Laymen's Fellowship which permits the officers to plan and carry out their program. The largest amount noted was $1,500.

In most states the laymen are very active in support of Our Christian World Mission program and their interest is reflected in the offerings to that program. The Southeast Convention has many churches wherein a study of the OCWM program by the laymen would be most beneficial. The weakness of support of OCWM in many churches, I believe, is due mainly to the lack of understanding of it and this weakness can only be overcome by discussion and study. Doubling the benevolence giving was the goal of the laymen and laywomen of one state.

What is your group doing? In order that a full report of area activities of laymen may be made to the Convention annual meeting in Charleston on April 23-24-25, each church will receive a form to be completed. The form should be returned to your area president as soon as possible after April 1st in order that he may have time to prepare his report to the Convention.

—Wm. Frank Gordon, president
Southeast Convention
Laymen's Fellowship

Superintendent's Page

"What Shall I Do With Jesus?"

(A Lenten Meditation from Matthew 27:1-26)

Confused voices of desperation are asking questions in these days — questions of great importance affecting the lives of all of us and relating to the eternal destiny of mankind. What is true? What is right? What is good? What is expedient? Who can be trusted? What will happen? What will people think? What is the answer? How will it all end? And the questioning voices continue until the din is almost too much for us to bear. But there have always been questionings. Every generation has had to face moral and social problems, political and ethical issues. And every generation has had to make grave decisions.

Let's go back nearly 2000 years and watch a gripping scene, enacted in the court of Pilate, fifth Roman procurator of Judea. St. Matthew has preserved the scene for us in all its dramatic detail. The courtyard is filled with milling people, pushing and shoving to get to the front of the crowd where "the chief priests and the elders" are guarding a prisoner they have brought for judgment. These are all good religious people, doing what they think is right. They only seek to be true to their customs and traditions and to the laws of their fathers. This prisoner, he's a bad one; he dares to put their laws and customs to nought. He is preaching a new docrine of love, mercy, justice, forgiveness and humble service to all mankind. Such irresponsible talk as his could upset the whole religious and social life of the community and nation.

That talkative one over there, let's listen to what he is saying: "This man Jesus of Nazareth is dangerous! We've waited our chance. Now we can get rid of him once and for all." That is what the people are saying in their righteous indignation. And the man they are talking about? He is standing very much alone. "Where are his followers, those who have listened and believed? Oh, they have run away and hid, for fear they too may be caught and dealt with harshly. Some may have followed the crowd to this courtyard, but if they have they are raising no voice in defense of this false prophet. Oh, there was a big fellow around the fire in the early morning — he looked like a Galilean who might have been one of this man's disciples; but probably not, for when we challenged him he began to curse and swear, saying I never knew the man!

"Ah, here comes Pilate. Now we'll get some action. Listen, the priests and elders are presenting their case. Their testimony will fix that Jesus of Nazareth for sure!

"Quiet down. How can we hear what's going on? Listen, Pilate is talking to the man. What's he saying, I can't hear. The governor is asking the man a question. And the Nazarene doesn't answer a word! What can he say? He's dead wrong, you know. He can't say a single thing in his own defense. Ha! Now we'll see what happens.

"What's that? Pilate says he can find nothing wrong in the man? Well, he just hasn't heard the terrible things he's been saying! He just hasn't seen how that man's been upsetting the people.

"Keep still! The governor's saying something about giving us a choice. Sure, that's right, that's our custom during this time of year. That's a good idea!

"What's the choice? Jesus or Barabbas. Who's Barabbas? Oh, that murderer. Well, that's easy. We'll take Barabbas. Listen to them yell! What's that? What's Pilate say? Listen, he's asking a question. 'What then shall I do with Jesus?' Do with him? Crucify him! Crucify him! Listen to this mob. Pilate better watch out or he'll have a riot on his hands.

"Look! See what he's doing now. The governor is washing his hands! He's leaving and there go the chief priests and the elders. That's right, treat him rough. Let's follow the crowd and see what happens!"

That was a long, long time ago—but somehow it sounds like something that happened but yesterday and could even happen again today.

"What shall I do with Jesus?"

—Erston M. Butterfield

L. to R. REV. PALMER and DR. HARDACRE

The Lost Returned

An old baptismal bowl which has been "lost" for many years finally got back home Sunday night, Jan. 29. Dr. Paul H. Hardacre, Moderator of Brookmeade Congregational Church, made the formal return to the Rev. Robert C. Palmer of First Unitarian Church.

Engraving on the bowl shows that it was originally given to First Unitarian Church in 1927 by Ike Weinstein. This church later disbanded and the bowl was given to the old Collegeside Congregational Church.

Recently members of Brookmeade Congregational Church were checking through odds and ends left to them by the old Collegeside church when it disbanded, and the bowl was found.

Spring Convocation And Ministers School May 7-11

According to Rev. Guy L. Colbert, chairman of the Committee on Ministry and Churches of the SEC, the next Convocation and Training School will be held May 7-11 at Southern Union College.

During the afternoons a speaker from the Evangelical and Reformed Church will talk for 30 minutes on history, polity and practice of his denomination; and there will also be a speaker on Congregational Christian history, polity and practice for the same period of time.

Rev. Archie Bedford will give a series of lectures on "Ethics for All" during the evening sessions. President Clyde C. Flannery will continue his lectures on "Christian Doctrine" and the Rev. Robert Yoh will teach "Scripture Reading and Worship."

Deering Summer School

Ministers of the Southeast Convention who are interested in attending the summer school for ministers at Deering Community Center, Hillsboro, New Hampshire, July 11 to 31, should write to Supt. Butterfield at once. Dean of the school will be Dr. Truman B. Douglass, Executive vice-president of the Board of Home Missions.

The school is intended to be a retreat for worship, study and fellowship and an opportunity for pastors to hear and talk with qualified leaders in the fields of Bible, Christian theology, preaching, religious education, parish administration and the special problems of the rural and urban church.

In addition to those from the eastern section of the country, attending the school will be delegates from Puerto Rico, fraternal delegates from the western Conferences of the Congregational Christain Churches and fraternal delegates from the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Faculty members include D. Davis Napier, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Yale University Divinity School; Roger Shin, Professor of Theology, Vanderbilt University School of Religion; Browne Barr, Associate Professor of Preaching, Yale University Divinity School; Robert W. Spike, Director of Dept. of Evangelism, the Board of Home Missions; Wesley A. Hotchkiss, Director of Town and Country Dept., the Board of Home Missions; Everett C. Parker, Director of Office of Communication, and Dr. Harry T. Stock, General Secretary, Division of Christian Education. Mrs. Wesley A. Hotchkiss will serve as Librarian.

Missionary Education

If you are the Missionary Education chairman of your Women's Fellowship or church, you may find some of the following suggestions helpful. These ideas were adapted from the Ohio Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women's program for 1955:

1. Use returned missionaries as guest speakers whenever possible.
2. Use Guide-posts.
3. Have a skit showing how Friendly Service material is prepared and sent. One church made a replica of Ryder Memorial Hospital and then described its work at a meeting.
4. Use place mats or picture sets as visual aids when studying themes.
5. Send for "Missionary Personality" sheets. Have an "Unseen Guest" meal. Each person introduces an unseen guest giving interesting facts about her which have been learned from the personality sheets. If this is a paid meal, collect for the unseen guest too, and send money to Our Christian World Mission.
6. Obtain a copy of "Facts from the Field" from your minister for up-to-date data.
7. Try to get your church to use the prepared church bulletins (Pilgrim Press) on Sunday. The back cover carries useful information about OCWM.
8. As Women's Fellowsnip Missionary Education chairman, work closely with the church's Stewardship and Missionary Education Committee so that a unified, effective educational program for the whole church may result.

—Mary Margaret Smoot, president
Ky.-Tenn. Woman's Fellowship

A Starlet For The Marshall Islands

Project of the Month

Fly with me this month to the Marshall Islands. We may learn something surprising about the varieties of transportation available to the Marshallese members of our wider Christian family.

When you or I need to travel some distance, we can usually choose one of several ways. We can hike, take a bus, train, or street car. We can fly. We can step right out our front door into our own car. In the Marshall Islands, we will find the choices are few, if any. We might swim, but it wouldn't be safe or practical for long distances! We might fly, but the planes are few and far between, they land on only a very few islands, and they are often filled with government officials on priorities. Our only real choice is to wait for the little steamer which is irregular, infrequent and undependable!

When we arrive on Jabwor in the Marshall Islands, Eleanor Wilson, a remarkably young looking, bright-eyed and vigorous white haired lady will welcome us and let us drink in the beauty of the islands and respond to the friendly welcome of the islanders. But she will also tell us quickly that one of her major concerns is to get a boat, a "starlet," for the Marshall Islands and she will tell us why. After the Morning Star VI sank, the missionaries were desperate.

In July the health officer on Jabwor told Miss Wilson that he was afraid some of their students had appendicitis, and that they should go to the hospital in Majure, 130 miles away, for examination. It was August before the ship came, and Miss Wilson says "I took the four students to Majuro. Fortunately, the doctor there assured me there was nothing wrong with the students — they probably had gas pains." This time the ending was comic. It might easily have been tragic. Due to a change in ship schedule, Miss Wilson and the students were in Majure until September. When the ship still didn't come, she chartered a 50-footer and brought them back to Jabwor. The following day Miss Wilson had to leave again for a conference on Ponape!

Another example of their serious need for a "starlet" of their own is that due to lack of transportation, the pastors and teachers from six or seven atolls could not get to the Biennial Conference, which is their only conference in two years — their only opportunity for outside contact, fellowship, study and wider vision.

If you and I will help them, our American Board missionaries in the Marshall Islands can purchase a 45 footer sampan type sailboat with auxiliary motor for about $10,000. It may have a cabin, but it must also be able to carry cargo, for many of our Island people can only support their schools by gifts of copra (dried coconut) which is worth $1000 a ton, and the boat can be used for collecting this.

Why not give an inch ($20) or a foot ($240) of this new "starlet"? Then our missionaries and fellow Christians on these islands will be able to go to hospitals, schools, and conferences, which may well mean new life for their bodies, minds, and spirits. Send your contribution to Harold Belcher, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., for the March Project of the Month, "A Starlet for the Marshall Islands"; or to the Convention office, 673 Piedmont Ave. N. E., Atlanta.

L. to R.: Reverends Peter Doherty, A. C. Nelson, Henry Weaver, David W. Shepherd, David Clark and Erston M. Butterfield.

Dedication Service At Oak Grove Church

The Oak Grove Church at Chipley, Ga., held a dedication service on March 11 for the remodeled chancel.

Supt. Erston M. Butterfield preached the morning service, and Dr. David W. Shepherd, former Superintendent of the Southeast Convention, gave the scripture lesson and the prayer.

After a bounteous dinner at the church, the afternoon Service of Dedication began at 1:30 p. m., with Dr. Shepherd preaching the dedicatory sermon. Other ministers of the Convention participating were the Reverends Peter Doherty of Columbus First Church, A. C. Nelson of Lanett Huguley Church, David Clark of Roanoke Lowell Church, and Supt. Butterfield.

Miss Martha Ann Hatcher, organist, and Delton Hoxsie, choir director, provided the appropriate music for both services, with an anthem sung by Thomas Attwood.

L to R: Rev. Goff Bedford, Rev. B. P. Pardy, Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Rev. Dixon Stimpson, Paul Long, Carl Milton, Rev. Edward Knight, and Rev. Henry Abbott.

Recognition Service For Rev. Stimpson

The Union Hill Church of Pearson, Ga., installed the Rev. Dixon Stimpson, formerly of Plattsburg, N. Y., as its pastor and teacher at a Recognition Service held Feb. 16. The Rev. B. Paul Pardy of Langdale, Ala., preached the sermon. By coincidence, Dr. Pardy was the pastor to Mr. Stimpson in Mineville, N. Y., a quarter of a century ago and administered the sacrament of baptism to him while pastor of the church in the tiny New York mining town. Dr. Pardy and Mr. Stimpson had not seen each other in 24 years, and it was an especially significant reunion.

Other ministers who participated in the service were the Reverends Paul Long (Ozias Free Will Baptist Church), A. Goff Bedford of Tifton First Church, Henry Abbott of Vanceville and Enigma churches, Warren Blankenhorn of Ambrose, Edward Knight of Waycross, Carl Milton (First Baptist Church and president of the Atkinson County Ministerial Association). Mrs. H. Y. Sears and N. A. Long of Waycross also participated, and Mrs. Ione Kirkland was the pianist.

The program was well attended, and the ladies of the church served refreshments at the parsonage after the service.

L to R, front row: Rev. N. A. Long, Mrs. N. A. Long, Rev. Herbert Long, Mrs. Jettie Logan, Rev. Andrew Nelson; back row: Rev. B. B. Burks, Rev. Asa Booser, Rev. Thomas Shreve and Supt. Butterfield.

Rev. N. A. Long Installed

In a very impressive service on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 19, the Rev. N. A. Long was duly installed as pastor of the United Protestant Church of Thorsby, Ala.

Mr. Long's son, the Rev. Herbert Long, pastor of Liberty Church in East Tallassee, Ala., presided over the meeting under the direction of the Committee on Ministry and Churches of Central Alabama Association.

Other participants in the service included Mrs. Jettie Logan, Moderator of Central Association; Supt. Erston M. Butterfield; and the Rev. Thomas Shreve, pastor of the Mt. Olive Church of Tallassee. Ministers in attendance were the Reverends Andrew Nelson, pastor of Watson Chapel and Seman Community churches; B. B. Burks, pastor of the Baptist Church in Thorsby; and Asa Booser of the Thorsby Methodist Church.

Following the Service of Installation a reception for the newly installed pastor and his wife was held in the church parlors. On the reception committee, appointed by the Women's Fellowship, were Mrs. Pauline Howard, chairman, Mrs. Rosco Maddox, Mrs. Idell Kincaid and Mrs. Nan Hieda.

Free Mailing Privileges!

According to Religious News Service, bulletins published by rural churches will be able to go through the mails free of charge under terms of a new regulation issued in Washington, D. C. Extension of the "free in county" mailing privilege accorded weekly newspapers to church bulletins is an unexpected byproduct of a law passed in late summer. It permits any church or religious organization to enter its publication as second class matter simply by voting that it be sent all members of record and that part of their contribution be considered a subscription to the denominational publication. Ask your postmaster for details.

It is our understanding that church bulletins, entered as second class matter, will enjoy free mailing to all subscribers living on rural routes within the county in which these bulletins are published, as well as to box holders in small towns and villages that do not have city carriers.

Church News...

West Point Bethel Church is making progress under the leadership of the Rev. W. M. McCullars. One new member has been added to the church.

The regular weekly prayer meetings were held recently at the home of Mrs. Josie Blanks, and the following week at the home of Mrs. Mattie Black. These meetings are very inspiring to us all.

On each first and third Sunday nights we have a film on some inspirational and educational subject, and are enjoying these very much.

Funds have been donated to purchase paint for the exterior of the church, with members doing the work.

We feel the church is growing in God's spirit.

— Mrs. Will Aaron, reporter

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Sometime ago the **Columbus First Church** offered $6,000 for two old houses at the back of the church. The buildings would have been useless as far as church buildings were concerned, but the footage was what the church wanted. Although the price was nearly $100 per foot it was turned down. Sometimes our disappointments are God's appointments! One block from the present church there are nearly three lots which were owned by the Columbus Manufacturing Co. The president of the company was contacted to see if this land could be bought. After a few weeks of waiting the officials were told that the company was going to donate the land to the church.

The church has transferred $315 from the treasury to the building fund, and a check for $500 has been received.

The Men's Fellowship has taken the responsibility for conducting prayer meetings each week in the homes of sick and shut-in members of the church

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The 70th birthday of T. S. (Uncle Tom) Corbitt, Deacon Emeritus of the **Pearson Union Hill Church,** was celebrated with a dinner at his home Feb. 12 with more than 100 in attendance. After the dinner, teams from Union Hill cooperated with the First Baptist, Ozias Free Will Baptist, Methodist and Assembly of God churches of Pearson in a religious census.

The church has purchased a new typewriter and mimeograph machine to facilitate the publishing of the monthly newsletter, bulletins, church reports, etc.

A branch of the Atkinson County Library is being moved to the parsonage for the convenience and use of the Union Hill community.

On Feb. 17 Rev. Stimpson gave the main address to the well attended joint observance of the World Day of Prayer at the Methodist Church.

Two active members and officers of the Union Hill Church are seeking office: Tavell Courson, deacon, president of the Men's Club and S. S. Superintendent, is unopposed for the nomination of County Surveyor; and Herman S. Sears, secretary of the Men's Club, church clerk and treasurer, is campaigning for Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. John R. Scotford, nationally known consultant on church building, visited Union Hill March 1 and counselled a representative group of members. His helpful suggestions and pictures of desirable construction were greatly appreciated.

The observance of Holy Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday with an adaptation of the ancient office of Tenebrae. There will be an afternoon service on Good Friday with a sermon on the Seven Last Words.

Mrs. Dixon Stimpson has been appointed to the office of Devotional Life Chairman of the Women's Fellowship of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference.

Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Corbitt have purchased and installed venetian blinds to reduce the glare at the front of the church.

Dixon Stimpson, pastor

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Andalusia First Church observed the Lenten season with a series of Wednesday evening services featuring a different speaker each week. The first service in the series was held on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 15, with Holy Communion and a sermon with the pastor, the Rev. Scott Morris Jr., in charge. Feb. 22 the Rev. James P. Woodson, Vicar of St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Andalusia, was the guest speaker. On Feb. 29 the Rev. Raymond Berry, pastor of Andalusia Antioch Church, delivered the Lenten message.

On March 7 the Rev. Miss Annie R. Campbell, director of Christian Education for the Convention, spoke. The remaining messages will be brought by Reverends F. G. Hastings (Asst. Minister at Andalusia First Methodist Church), Ed Dannelly (Editor of the Andalusia **Star-News**), and Ed F. Reid, local attorney and gifted lay-speaker.

The Lenten series will end on Friday, March 30, with a Good Friday service led by the pastor.

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The Woman's Fellowship of **Crest Hebron Church** is at present studying the book, **Within Two Worlds.** Our last meeting was held at the home of the president, Mrs. Jack Danielon, on Feb. 23. Mrs. Danielon carried out the Indian-American theme by serving a menu of baked beans, beef, baked squash, stewed fruit, dates and brown bread, and had printed Indian names and sayings on the napkins. These were discussed during the meal. Each member was asked to bring a place mat in the Indian pattern.

The women are planning to purchase a table to go in front of the alter. Funds received from a cake sale in November are to be used to put hymnal racks on the backs of pews.

—Mrs. Bill Traylor, reporter

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Lanett Church has completed its Every Member Canvass, which was directed by Dr. Warren H. Denison. A budget was set up of $10,000 for Home Expenses and $13,000 for the Church Building Fund, and subscriptions have been received to date for $20,000. The building fund is to finish the ground floor of the church: Fellowship Hall, kitchen and East wing of the church. The program was put on by 27 teams of men, working under Dr. Denison's inspiration and direction.

The Board of Deacons has arranged for a very fine program of Evangelism. During the week of March 30 the Rev. John B. Crutcher, pastor of Phenix City United Church, will lead us in a Visitation Evangelism program. The following week Dr. John G. Truitt of Elon College will be with us for Evangelistic preaching.

The deacons have also recommended a plan for Friendly Family Visitation, with S. W. Seymour, C. A. Miller and Mrs. Wynard Robbins as the committee

(Continued on Page 10)

Pilgrim Fellowship ....

A meeting of the **Central Association** PF groups was held Feb. 26 at Mt. Olive Church in Tallassee, Ala. New officers were elected as follows: Phoebe Pemberton, president; Connie Culpepper, vice-president; Josephine Brown, secretary-treasurer; Francis Beasley, reporter; Mrs. Roy Culpepper and Mrs. Fannie Mae Brown, adult advisors.

Workshops on the three commissions were led by Mrs. Miriam Fralic, Rev. Herbert Long and Mrs. Fannie Mae Brown. Millard Fuller also helped in these groups. An interesting film was shown on Indian-Americans of North Dakota. Refreshments were served by the host church.

— Connie Culpepper, reporter

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The **Headland Blackwood PF** has recently elected new officers. They are: Lowell Kennedy, president; Wendell Hand, vice-president; Betty Faison, secretary; Ben Johnson, treasurer; Lamar Rister, reporter.

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The Junior and Senior PF groups of the **First Church, Andalusia,** presented to the church a Christian Flag on March 11. The flag, of a lustrous silk and fringed with gold, is 3 by 5 feet. It is of the traditional Christian pattern, white with a red cross on a blue field, and is mounted on an 8-ft. pole, Wayne Graves, president of the Junior PF, made the presentation. The pastor, the Rev. Scott Morris Jr., accepted the flag in behalf of the church. Miss Jeannette Fore is president of the Senior group, who also participated in the project. Mrs. O. C. Graves is leader of the Junior group and Homer Linzy is leader of the Senior group.

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The PF group of **Hebron Church** held a family style dinner at the Thurston school on Feb. 24. Proceeds from this affair are to be used to pay the expenses of the delegates to the rally in Chattanooga. PF members were assisted by the women of the church in preparing the food.

—Mrs. Bill Traylor, church reporter

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The PF of **Community Church** of Pleasant Hill, Tenn., is looking forward to a bigger and better year for 1956. New officers were elected in January, as follows: Bettye Cunningham, president; Sally Frazier, vice-president; Freda Tucker, secretary; Tom Little, treasurer; faith chairman, Dora Cole; action chairman, Frank Little; fellowship chairman, Mary Thompson; membership chairman, Dorothy Miller; program chairman, Sally Frazier; and song leader, Norma Moore.

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The PF of **Central Church** in Atlanta has recently observed Workday for Christ with great success. A slave auction was held in advance, and each PFer worked on two consecutive Saturdays in January. The group netted a grand total of over $100 on these two days. With part of this money the group has taken as its project completely remodeling the church restrooms.

Touring such places as an Atlanta Catholic church, A Negro church, the Trappist Monastery at Conyers, and the Atlanta Art Institute has occupied much of the group's time recently. Plans have been made for an ice-skating party.

CHURCH NEWS, Continued

to make plans. A team of 30 to make four visits each month began this program on March 1st.

On Jan. 31 the Missionary Auxiliary sponsored a pancake supper, with proceeds used to help pay for the new gas stove recently purchased.

On Feb. 8 a most sacred prayer service was held in the chapel by Mrs. Harrhy of New Zealand. Mrs. Harrhy is visiting her daughter, Mrs. William Hodnett. She gave a vivid description of her church, Christ's Church, worship and compared it with ours. She commented on the reverent attitude.

On Feb. 17, the first Friday in Lent, our church observed World Day of Prayer with the congregations of the Methodist, Disciples, Church of God and our own Congregational Christian worshipping together.

The Missionary Auxiliary met Feb. 20 to hear Mrs. Donald Ross, wife of the Rev. Donald Ross, who is now pastor of Shawmut Todd Church. Mrs. Ross had an interesting and inspiring review of **Within Two Worlds** by David M. Cary.

—Mrs. Cooper Cannon, reporter

BIBLIOLATRY, Continued

or to those who rightly prize "The Book of Books." What religious value for modern folk can there possibly be in the gruesome recountings of the wholesale murderings by the Israelites of "all the men, women, children and suckling babes" of the Jebuzites, the Hittites, the Moabites, the Amalekites, the Canaanites, the Midianites, and all otherenemy "ites"? And yet these hideous recountings are given as if it all were the ordering of God that these other members of God's Family of Nations should be exterminated from the face of the earth. All such data is absolutely without inspirational value to any seeker after divine guidance. It is not strange that many honest people in our enlightened age have with great confusion wondered how such portions of the Old Testament were ever included in the Bible. Merely to show "the Pit from whence we have been digged" is not sufficient reason. We should all realize that the Old Testament books were selected out of a much larger list of Judaist writings by the leaders of Judaism many years before Christianity came upon the scene. Christian leaders selected the books that were to be included in the New Testament. And though many of the Psalms contain marvelous inspiration for faith, no intelligent person could claim inspirational value for the imprecatory Psalms just because they were written by one of the Psalmists, or on the grounds that they are in the Old Testament.

Indeed, an abridgement of the Old Testament to the size of the New Testament or smaller, would be welcomed by many ardent lovers of the Bible. Such an abridgement is long over-due.

One contentious and obstinate bibliolater, with exploding rancor, dogmatically contended that all the books in the Bible were equally inspired. But when he was "put on the spot" with the pertinent question: "If you had to spend the rest of your life alone on a desolate island, having your choice of only one of two books of the Bible to take with you — and if those two books were Leviticus and the Gospel of Saint John which of the two books would you choose?" He impetuously replied:: "That is simple, The Gospel of Saint John, of course. What good would the book of Leviticus do anybody in such a plight?" That illustration speaks volumes!

There have been literally thousands

More About The "New Look"

The February issue of the **Southeast News** had a different appearance, as most of you noted. We hope you like the three columns instead of two (this is supposed to be more easily read, since the eye does not have to travel as far).

There are always problems in changing publishers, but we are working them out together, and the March issue will have other improvements we hope you will like.

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of sincere souls who have lost their way in their pilgrimage of faith in trying to square parts of the Old Testament with the Christian idea of "a loving God who is the loving Heavenly Father of all mankind" and who is "the same yesterday, today and forever." Literally thousands of sincere seekers after truth have thus been confused and lost to the Church down through the years because of the false and pernicious claims of bibliolatry which they had heard given by misguided leaders within the churches, leaders who were in fact bibliolaters leading uninformed and misinformed folk astray. How different their reaction might have been to the Bible, to the Church, and to life, if they had known the truth about how we got our Bible, who wrote it, and why was it written; and if they had been told that the authority of the Bible does not rest upon any theory of inspiration in its making, but upon the truth it contains about God, about man, and about life as it portrays the story of man's advancement from thinking of God as being a tribal deity concerned only about one race (and with questionable ethical demands), to the understanding of God as the loving Heavenly Father.

(to be concluded)

Will all church reporters please remember that the Convention issue of **Southeast News**, which will be the April issue, does not carry church news but is used for the annual reports of all officers, committee chairmen, staff of the Convention; and also carries the agenda and information about the speakers and visitors.

We'll hold any church news for the May issue, and will devote extra space to it.

SOUTHERN UNION COLLEGE NEWS

Believing that training for recreation leadership is an essential part of college experience for those who will be community leaders, the Southern Union College is offering such a course during the spring quarter.

The leader of the course will be James J. Wolf, the itinerant recreator of the Council of the Southern Mountains, Inc., from Berea, Ky. Wolf's duties will be varied. For the morning division, two sections of Recreation Leadership will be offered, the class meeting daily for an hour. Wolf will also have charge of the physical education program during the morning hours.

In order to meet the needs of 4-H leaders, church recreation workers and any others who need recreation training, a special class is being arranged which will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings each week.

Mr. Wolf is a native of New York City and holds his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Syracuse University. While still a young man, he has had a great deal of experience in camp work, community center leadership, folk schools and other recreation assemblies. He began his work with the Council of the Southern Mountains in June, 1955 and since has worked in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina and now in Alabama. His connection with Southern Union is through special arrangement. SUC is a member of the Council as an institution and several faculty members and students are members.

Any high school graduate is welcome to enroll in any of the sections of the course. Those who are not high school graduates, but who are in positions of recreation leadership, may enroll for auditor's credit. Registration for the morning division was March 14, with March 20 being the evening section registration date.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

As a part of its community service program, the college has organized a "Speakers Bureau" program which makes 10 of its staff members available to educational, religious, civic and social groups within a radius of 100 miles from Wadley.

The program is under the direction of the Office of Public Relations and is purposed to accomplish several things: to serve the needs of the wider SUC community, to interpret the SUC story, to assist all community groups who are attempting to lift standards of educational and social life.

Those who are members of the Bureau include President Clyde C. Flannery, Librarian Carolyn P. Welch, Dr. Simon A. Bennett, Dean Albert R. Van Cleave, Registrar Alta I. MacLaren, Chaplain Carl J. Landes, Dean of Women Dorothy S. Riess, Professor Robert C. Yoh, Professor Lucille M. Cooley and Public Relations Director Douglas Wasson.

The Bureau will also arrange for groups of the staff to give panel discussions of selected topics. These are by special arrangements with the various organizations. The list of lecture topics range from "Can Parents Help When Johnny Can't Read?" to "On Being Triplets" to "Robert E. Lee, Great American" to "Juvenile or Adult Delinsuency" to an illustrated kodachrome lecture on "The Story of the Grand Canyon."

Any interested group should write the Office of Public Relations at SUC for information.

SPRING QUARTER

The Spring Quarter opened March 14, and will close with Commencement on June 3. Several changes were made in the faculty. Dr. Simon A. Bennett, professor of religion and history, will be on leave of absence until fall. Dr. William A. Broyles, professor of biological science, is returning to campus following a quarter's leave of absence. Professor Wolf will offer courses in Recreation Leadership.

Courses offered in the morning division are: General Science, Biology, Old Testament, Adult Reading, American Literature, Record Keeping, Money and Banking, American Government, Office Machines, Christian Ethics, Educational Psychology, College Algebra, Recreational Leadership, Music Appreciation, New Testament, Public Speaking, English Literature, Art Appreciation.

Afternoon division courses are: Old Testament, Marriage and Family, Accounting, American Government, Typing, General Science, Art Appreciation, English Literature, and Recreation Leadership.

—Douglas Wasson

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Entered as Second Class

Influence Of Radio And TV Cannot Be Ignored

Top leaders of Protestant churches must turn their attention to developing a policy for television and radio programs, instead of leaving these matters to a few specialists or using the programs mainly for specialized fund-raising or teaching projects. This is one of the conclusions published in the book, "The Television-Radio Audience and Religion," as a result of two years study of the viewing and listening habits of a cross section of population in the industrial city of New Haven, Conn.

The Rev. Everett C. Parker, Director of Communications of our denomination, conducted this study under the sponsorship of the National Council of Churches and the supervision of Yale Divinity School.

Dr. Truman B. Douglass served on the administrative committee of which Dr. Liston Pope was chairman.

Guides to Use

As guides in appraisal of your own local use of these powerful media, the following findings might be very useful:

Three out of five households watch or listen to some religious program with regularity; few pastors of local churches have given serious consideration to the impact of radio or television upon their constituents. (This conclusion is unquestionably correct as proved by the method of study.) Family groups find programs based directly on the Bible the most interesting and useful of all religious programs; although religious programs tend to be sixth in popularity among audiences, television stations grant only one percent of the total time to such telecasts; leading Roman Catholic programs have a much larger audience than leading Protestant programs.

Many church leaders interviewed in this study seemed to be looking for the kind of program that would be "the answer to Fulton Sheen" rather than planning a more diversified ministry through radio and television to the varieties of human souls that inhabit this country.

OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION

Associations & Conferences	1954-55 Pledges	Paid 1955	1955-56 Pledge	Monthly	Due Jan.-Feb.	Paid Jan.-Feb.	Now Due
Central Alabama Association 9 churches, 537 members 1955 giving @ $2 per member	$1005.	$1024.	$1222.	$102.	$203.	$203.	$ 29.
East Alabama Association 36 churches, 3170 members 1955 giving @ 1.45 per member	4476.	4610.	5299.	441.	882.	772.	270.
North Alabama Association 12 churches, 709 members 1955 giving @ 1.60 per member	742.	1145.	1393.	117.	234.	107.	151.
South Ala. - NW Fla. Ass'n. 13 churches, 753 members 1955 giving @ 1.57 per member	1011.	1186.	.1566.	131.	261.	248.	68.
Georgia - South Carolina Conf. 35 churches, 3275 members 1955 giving @ 1.90 per member	6936.	6388.	7182.	600.	1200.	961.	327.
Kentucky - Tennessee Conf. 12 churches, 1070 members 1955 giving @ 3.90 per member	3514.	4203.	4918.	412.	823.	952.	103.
	17,684.	18,566.	21,580.	1,803	3,603.	3,243.	948.

The above table of pledges and giving for January and February of 1956 is included in the magazine at the suggestion of the Board of Directors, to give everyone an idea of how the Convention stands financially. Each pastor and church clerk has been sent a more detailed statement, made up by churches in each conference and association.

Since some of the churches prefer to send in their OCWM pledges quarterly, we hope that during March a great deal of the amount in the last column, marked "now due" will come in this month.

As Supt. Butterfield said to the Board at the Feb. 21 meeting, when people say "why doesn't the Convention do this or that . . . why doesn't the Convention help this church or that church . . . " what they really should be saying is "why don't WE . . . ", because the only funds the Convention has are those that come to us from the churches which share in Our Christian World Mission. The supplement from the Board of Home Missions (which will decrease each year and cease entirely eventually) does not take care of even half the budget needs. And the Convention budget must, of necessity, be based on the money we are actually receiving each month and not on what we hope to receive. Thus the Board of Directors is faced with the alternative of cutting back the budget so that it does not exceed the incoming funds, or discovering a way to increase the benevolent giving, by interpreting to the churches what Christian Stewardship really is.

Supt. Butterfield said also that he felt too many churches are contributing to Our Christian World Mission out of a sense of duty toward the Convention, rather than out of a deep appreciation of the total cause of Christianity or a complete understanding of the motivations of Christian Stewardship. He added that "we have a great job to do. We have come a long way together. We have a long way to go." This was in reference to the Convention agreement with the Board of Home Missions to work toward self-support so that within 10 years the Southeast Convention would be completely on its own feet, financially.